

**Case 3286*****Thinobius crinifer* Smetana, 1959 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve, in relation to Article 23.9.3 of the Code, the specific name *Thinobius crinifer* Smetana, 1959 for a widespread Palaearctic species of rove beetle (family STAPHYLINIDAE). The name is threatened by the recently discovered synonymy with the largely unused senior name *Thinobius wenckeri* Fauvel, 1863 and three senior names whose description is based on specimens from North America, where the species was apparently introduced.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; *Thinobius*; *Thinobius crinifer*; rove beetles; Holarctic.

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1. The name *Thinobius crinifer* Smetana, 1959 (p. 271), described from Albania, was given to a widespread species of rove beetle (family STAPHYLINIDAE) that lives on sand and gravel banks of rivers and streams in large parts of the Palaearctic region. The species is of ecological and conservation interest. *Thinobius crinifer* has four older subjective synonyms.

2. The oldest name *Thinobius wenckeri* Fauvel, 1863 (p. 41), also described from Europe (France), was used as the name of a valid species only twice after its original description in the second half of the 19th century, the last time in 1868 (Gemminger & Harold, 1868, p. 654). Since the synonymization by Fauvel (1871, p. 164), *Thinobius wenckeri* Fauvel, 1863 has been considered either a synonym or an infrasubspecific form of *Thinobius longipennis* (Heer, 1841, p. 595). The synonymy of *Thinobius wenckeri* Fauvel, 1863 and *Thinobius crinifer* Smetana, 1959 was established by Schülke & Makranczy (2003), based on an examination of type material. Since *Thinobius wenckeri* Fauvel meets the provisions of Article 23.9.1, it has to be considered a nomen oblitum and *Thinobius crinifer* Smetana, 1959 a nomen protectum (Schülke & Makranczy, 2003).

3. Three other synonyms: *Thinobius tardus* Notman, 1921 (p. 149), *Thinobius amphibiis* Notman, 1921 (p. 149) and *Thinobius grandicollis* Notman, 1921 (p. 150) were described from North America where the species appears to have been recently introduced. The synonymy of all the names described by Notman (1921) with *Thinobius crinifer* Smetana, 1959 was established by Schülke & Makranczy (2003) based on a study of type material. The names have been listed as valid only five times after their original descriptions in the papers of Scheerpeltz (1933, pp. 1126, 1127), Herman (1970, pp. 396, 397; 2001, pp. 1738, 1746, 1758), Moore & Legner (1975, pp. 254, 255) and Downie & Arnett (1996, p. 457) without any additional information. Only one of the references (Downie & Arnett, 1996) includes the species in an

identification key. An automatic suppression of all names described by Notman (1921) is not possible because they do not meet the provisions of Article 23.9.1.

4. In relation to the names published by Notman (1921), an automatic suppression of *Thinobius wenckeri* is not possible, because the provisions of Article 23.9.2 of the Code are not met in the case of *T. tardus*, *T. amphibius* and/or *T. grandicollis* (all listed as valid only four times during the last five decades).

5. However, *Thinobius crinifer* Smetana, 1959 was used as the valid name for the species from the time of its description and has been cited as valid in at least 41 articles by 28 authors in the last 50 years (Schülke & Makranczy, 2003; the Commission Secretariat holds these references). *Thinobius crinifer* Smetana is one of the most abundant Western Palaearctic species of the genus. The species name has frequently been used in the European taxonomic, zoogeographic and ecological literature, as well as in Red Data Lists and other papers dealing with nature conservation. To preserve continuity of the literature and to stabilize the name for use this case is submitted to the Commission under Article 23.9.3.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the following names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
  - (a) *tardus* Notman, 1921, as published in the binomen *Thinobius tardus*;
  - (b) *amphibius* Notman, 1921, as published in the binomen *Thinobius amphibius*;
  - (c) *grandicollis* Notman, 1921, as published in the binomen *Thinobius grandicollis*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *crinifer* Smetana, 1959, as published in the binomen *Thinobius crinifer*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *tardus* Notman, 1921, as published in the binomen *Thinobius tardus* and as suppressed in (1) above;
  - (b) *amphibius* Notman, 1921, as published in the binomen *Thinobius amphibius* and as suppressed in (1) above;
  - (c) *grandicollis* Notman, 1921, as published in the binomen *Thinobius grandicollis* and as suppressed in (1) above;
  - (d) *wenckeri* Fauvel, 1863, as published in the binomen *Thinobius wenckeri* (a nomen oblitum).

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